



The Totem Poll

Harford County's Election Poll Workers Newsletter

Building a better election process one election judge at a time

Volume 7 Issue 1

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Director's Letter:

Well, as they say in Election Land, we survived another election. But in Harford County, we don't just survive them, we thrive on them. It's truly amazing to see the various Departments, community groups and citizens come together to exercise one of the most sacred rights, to participate in the selection of those who govern us.

There were several emotionally charged issues on the ballot this election, and those that administered the process and those that exercised their right to vote demonstrated the values and respect for the freedoms that have made this nation the greatest place on Earth to live. The Sheriff's Department and Bel Air P.D. maintained a subtle presence to ensure accessibility and safety at the polling places.

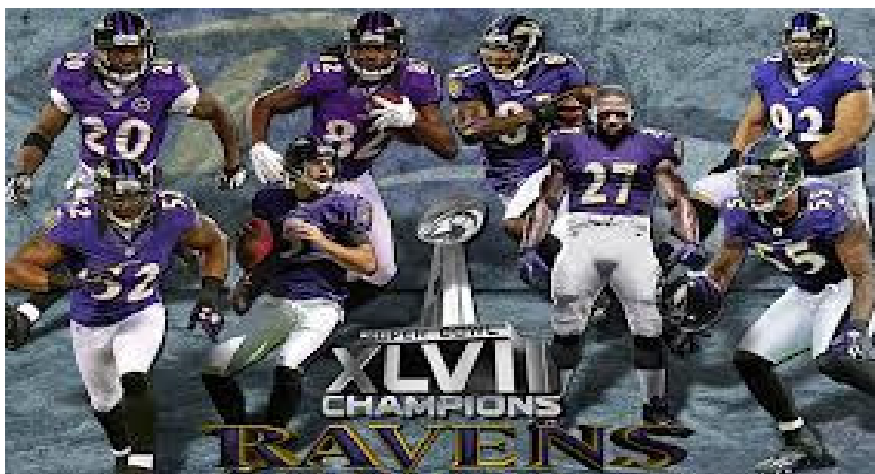
To my partner and staff that I submit set the bar for election excellence, I thank them for guiding me through my first election as a director and tip my cap to them for their patience and tolerance. They are truly the masters of their craft. Harford County, your voter rolls and elections are in the best of hands. Dale, Marge, Nancy, Sue, Wanda, Cliff, Shawn, Vanessa, Stephanie, Maggie, Elke, Jess and Brenda, you have no peers. While only temporary I cannot forget, Nelia, Kathy, Polly, Christine and Bob, who every couple of years step in and knock-it-out of the park.

County IT and the State were with us every step of the way. The McFaul administration, staff and members could not have been more accommodating and gracious. As Chris says, "It's a science, man." Thank you guys and gals.

And what can I say about the EDSS crew, the techs that come in for the election to work with our equipment and have the job description, "and other duties as assigned." For you Raven's fans, it's 4th and 29, and like Ray Rice you get the ball to them and they get you 30. Russell, nothing more to say but, "you're the man, good luck."

Last but maybe most impressive, the Election Judges. There are no words to capture how incredible it is that roughly a thousand people from all walks of life come together and run an election every two years, almost flawlessly. Equipment, software and processes change, you come back and get a couple of hours of training, then out you go to be amazing one more time. Your dedication, commitment and sense of community keeps the wheels of democracy rolling. We here at the office, thank each and everyone of you from the bottom of our hearts for your contribution to the greatest nation on this Earth. Elections, its what we do!

- Kevin Keene



Introducing Kevin Keene

Harford County Board of Elections would like to welcome its newest Election Director, Kevin Keene. Kevin began working as Director for Harford County back in June. Before that, he had served as a Board member for our Election office. When presented with the opportunity to take the head position, he seized it with an iron fist.

Before his time in Elections, Kevin Keene worked for the Baltimore County Police Department from 1981 to 2002. During those years he worked Patrol, Inspections (renamed Quality Control), and retired as the Commander of the Criminal Intelligence Unit at the rank of Lieutenant. He was responsible for conducting inspections of all units within the department, conducting audits including Evidence Management and Forensics.

During his career in the police department, Kevin Keene completed his undergraduate work at the University of Baltimore receiving a B.S. in Business with a concentration in Management.

He also attended and completed Law School at UB and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in June of 1998. That same year, he was admitted to practice law in Maryland, the U.S District Court of Maryland and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Maryland.

Before becoming a Board member for Harford Elections in 2008, Kevin spent four years as the Board attorney from 2004 to 2008.

Kevin also spent time playing minor league baseball in 1978 as a pitcher for the Paintsville Highlanders in the Appalachian League. That same year featured players such as Cal Ripken, Larry Sheets and John "T-Bone" Shelby, who all played for the Bluefield Orioles.

In the seven months Kevin Keene has been director, he has shown true leadership and has displayed a genuine family oriented atmosphere here in the office. With Kevin at the helm, Harford Elections will continue moving forward in a positive direction.



Kevin Keene began serving as Director on June 27, 2012.



Thank you EDSS!!

Once again, our crew came through. Election Day Support Specialists...no four words ever rang more true. Whether it was extra supplies needed, troubleshooting, over-the-phone instructions, even helping out here in the office, EDSS was there to answer the call and resolve the problem. The entire staff of the Election office would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to each of you who helped make our job easier leading up to and on Election Day.



Mr. Jones Comes to Harford!

Welcome Clifton Jones to the Harford County Board of Elections office. Cliff came to us in July, 2012 after working at the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections for four years. During his time here and in Anne Arundel, Cliff has performed numerous duties such as Voter Registration, Nursing Homes, and most notably Absentee. If you have questions regarding Absentee ballots, this is the man to ask.

Cliff brings knowledge, experience and a good working attitude to Harford County. He certainly helped us through a very strenuous and contested Presidential Election and we look forward to him continuing his great work.

You can watch Cliff's TV interview from our YouTube link!

WATCH US ON
You Tube



Clifton Jones officially started as an Administrative Assistant II on July 25 of this 2012.

Welcome a "Board"



Bill Christofo joins the Harford Co. Board of Elections as its newest Board Member.

When Kevin Keene was appointed as the Director of the Harford County Board of Elections, a void was created on the Board that needed to be filled. With that, I introduce to you Mr. William "Bill" G. Christofo, Harford County Board of Elections' newest Board member.

After a 30 year career as a prosecutor with the Harford County State's Attorneys' office, Bill retired in 2010. Since that time he has pursued an interest in foreign travel, having traveled to Turkey, Morocco, Ireland, Spain and Portugal; all within the last 2 years.

Bill's interest in election law stems from his service as

Chairman of the Harford County Republican Party during Governor Robert Erlich's administration.

Bill is currently in private practice, specializing in criminal defense and lives in Bel Air.

We welcome Bill to the Harford County Board of Elections and look forward to his contribution in assisting us to continue to serve the citizens of Harford County.



Thanks from Maggie & Elke

Elke and I would like to thank the Judges for all of their hard work, including the ones who worked early voting. This election was a great success with its challenges, long lines and cold weather.

-Maggie Mundle

-Elke Anthony

Election Judge Coordinators



The lines for Early Voting at the McFaul Activity Center were extremely long at times stretching around the parking lot.

Coming in 2013

Although the new year is a non Election year (no Presidential nor Gubernatorial Election,) 2013 will still bring plenty of challenges ahead for Harford.

Harford County Elections will be assisting in two Municipal Elections; the first will be on May 7 for the City of Havre de Grace, the second will be on November 5th for the Town of Bel Air. Aberdeen, who used to have their Municipals on the same year and day as Bel Air, will now conduct their Elections every four years. The next Municipal for the City of Aberdeen will be in 2015.

As you know by now, all four of the controversial ballot questions from the Presidential Election were affirmed by Maryland voters. Those measures expand gambling, legalize same-sex marriage, allow in-state tuition for some illegal immigrants and create new congressional district boundaries; all will take effect in 2013.

As our office typically does we will be assisting several schools with their Student Government Elections. The follow-

ing schools conducting SGA elections are:

- H.C.R.A.S.C. (Harford County Regional Association of Student Council)
- Fallston High School
- Bel Air High School
- Edgewood Middle School
- North Harford High School

The Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) will also be commemorating their 50th Conference in 2013. This conference will take place at the UMUC Marriott in Hyattsville.

While 2013 will not contain either a Gubernatorial nor a Presidential Election, we still urge voters to check your voter status and affirm that all your information is up-to-date. If you have moved or changed your name recently be sure to update it with our office so no issues occur when 2014 arrives.

Stay tuned!



VOTE

CHECK YOUR VOTER STATUS!

☒ **VOTE**

Are you a registered voter?

☒ **VOTE**

Has your address changed?

☒ **VOTE**

Has your name changed?

☒ **VOTE**

Do you wish to change your party affiliation?